

App. No. 10/707,473
Amendment dated September 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole defining ~~a heel area and lateral sides;~~

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said upper ~~quarter~~ being permanently attached along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, and said vamp being unilaterally split from said quarter down one side of said upper between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;

a zipper provided horizontally along said horizontal split, sole from a position on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the split between said quarter and said vamp, said zipper and having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

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a second hook-and-pile fastener complementary to said first hook-and-pile fastener, provided on said quarter, ~~flanking said split~~ alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole ~~defining a heel area and lateral sides;~~

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, ~~said upper~~ quarter being permanently attached ~~along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of~~ to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, and said vamp being unilaterally split from said quarter down one side of said upper between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;

a zipper provided horizontally along said horizontal split, sole from a position ~~on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the quarter and vamp split, said zipper and~~ having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

~~a pair of complementary second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said~~ second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter, ~~flanking said split~~ alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided

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extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener;
whereby

said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A shoe for the elderly and disabled, the shoe comprising:

a sole defining a heel area, ~~lateral sides~~ and a toe area, said toe area being thinner to the extent possible than the heel area;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said ~~upper~~ quarter being permanently attached ~~along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, and said vamp being unilaterally split from said quarter down one side of said upper between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided ~~horizontally along said horizontal split, sole from a position on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the quarter and vamp split, said zipper and~~ having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

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a pair of complementary second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter, flanking said split alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener; whereby

said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter.

Claim 4 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 5 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 6 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 7 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

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an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 8 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 9 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 10 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

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Claim 11 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm^2 or greater.

Claim 12 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm^2 or greater.

Claim 13 (new): A shoe composed of an upper, a heel portion, and a sole portion, with the heel portion being made up of a heel center portion and heel side portions, the upper section being horizontally openable/closable by means of a slide fastener, the shoe characterized in that:

the heel side portion along the inside part of the foot is continuous with the shoe upper, and the heel side portion along the outside part of the foot from the ankle-joint part to the insole part of the foot instep splits away, splitting the outer side of the upper;

a third hook-and-pile fastener is provided on obverse/reverse sides of the split-away part of the upper;

a slide fastener splits the upper horizontally, and at the same time is provided on the split-away part of the upper, running along the insole from a position in the portion of the upper where the ball of the big toe is, passing along the toe cap, and reaching to the position of the ankle-joint split in the foot instep;

a first hook-and-pile fastener is provided on a pull-tab for the slide fastener;
and

a second hook-and-pile fastener is provided on a heel-side-portion surface corresponding to the first hook-and-pile fastener; wherein

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the second hook-and-pile fastener on the heel side portion, the third hook-and-pile fastener on the split-away part of the upper, and the first hook-and-pile fastener on the slide fastener pull-tab fasten together.